



FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION (REGION 2) DENVER, CO

FSH 2509.25 – WATERSHED CONSERVATION PRACTICES HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 20 – NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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Regional Forester

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Posting Instructions: Amendments are numbered consecutively by Handbook number and calendar year. Post by document; remove entire document and replace with this amendment. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document. The last amendment to this Handbook was 2509.25-2006-2 to 2509.25_10.

New Document(s):	2509.25_20	4 Pages
Superseded Document(s) by Issuance Number and Effective Date	2509.25_20_contents (Amendment 2509.25-96-1, 12/26/1996) 2509.25_20 (Amendment 2509.25-99-3, 3/22/1999)	1 Page 3 Pages

Digest:

21.1 – Adds direction to apply acceptable alternatives as appropriate to specific WCPs to land management actions.

21.2 – Adds direction for WCP monitoring as directed by Forest Plans or project level monitoring plans. Also adds direction to store monitoring data in NRIS-Water, STORET and/or other corporate databases and to share monitoring data with States and other interested stakeholders.

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21 - STRATEGY

Follow this Nonpoint Source Management Strategy to meet State water quality requirements. It is consistent with the 1985 agreement between the EPA and the Forest Service. The Strategy includes the application, monitoring, and adjustment of watershed conservation practices (WCPs).

21.1 - Application

The Forest Service shall apply specific WCPs (or appropriate alternatives) to its land management actions and the actions of others on NFS lands. Implement these WCPs (or appropriate alternatives) to meet State water quality standards and protect classified uses of water.

21.2 - Monitoring

The Forest Service shall monitor WCP implementation to ensure that WCPs are properly applied, and WCP effectiveness to ensure that State water quality standards are met and classified uses of water are protected. Emphasis should be on sampling sensitive stream reaches and high-impact actions to improve resource protection. Accomplish WCP implementation and effectiveness monitoring as directed by the Forest Plan and/or project level monitoring plans. The Forest Service shall document the results of all such monitoring.

1. Monitoring of WCP implementation should occur primarily as recorded visual certification that WCPs have been applied as prescribed.
2. Monitoring of WCP effectiveness must include recorded visual surveys of the movement of pollutants to streams, and recorded measures of various stream metrics that may include widths-depth ratio, woody debris, substrate, bank stability, flow regime, water chemistry, and aquatic biota. Compare metrics with reference streams in the same physiographic zone. Also collect water samples and analyze as needed.
3. Store monitoring data in NRIS-Water, STORET, and/or other corporate databases as applicable. Share monitoring data with States and other interested stakeholders as needed and appropriate.

21.3 - Adjustment

The Forest Service shall use monitoring results as a feedback mechanism to modify the land management activity, adjust WCPs, or recommend changes to State water quality standards as needed.

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1. If monitoring identifies a water quality problem created by an activity such that State water quality standards are not met or classified uses are not protected, the stop or modify the activity; promptly install mitigation measures that remedy the problem. Contracts and project plans must be modified to ensure that these added measures are implemented as prescribed. Monitoring will continue to ensure that the measures are effective in meeting State water quality standards and protecting classified uses of water.

2. If any WCPs are found to be inadequate to meet State water quality standards or protect classified uses of water, adjust WCPs to provide adequate protection.

3. Where it appears impossible to meet a State water quality standard and still provide the goods and services mandated by Congress, the Forest Service may work with the State to recommend a change to the water quality standard if appropriate, but shall continue to be responsible for compliance with the standard unless and until it is changed.